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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 22 March 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine concerning the disreputable Russian court decision on the trumped-up case of Nadiya Savchenko, member of the Ukrainian Parliament, member of the Ukrainian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Ukrainian Army serviceman and political prisoner illegally detained in Russia (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the statement distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72 (b), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 22 March 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the disreputable Russian court decision on the trumped-up case of Nadiya Savchenko

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses strong and resolute protest with regard to the so-called "verdict" of the so-called "Russian court" sentencing Nadiya Savchenko, citizen of Ukraine, member of the Ukrainian Parliament and member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), to 22 years in prison.

The verdict is an indisputable proof that it is useless to seek justice in modern Russia. When Russia is politically driven, it disregards the fundamental norms and principles of international law, its national legislation, humanity, justice and morality.

This unlawful decision, based on the bogus investigation, represents not the verdict to Nadiya Savchenko but to Russia itself, in which the Kremlin crushed down any fairness and justice.

Russia's brutal violation of universal norms as well as Nadiya's PACE immunity is a clear signal to the international community of the inadmissibility of violating fundamental principles and norms by the country, which is one of the United Nations Security Council permanent members.

We consider this cynical judicial farce as yet another indisputable evidence of violation of the Minsk agreements by Russian Federation.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine urges Russia to immediately cancel this illegal, inhumane decision and immediately release Nadiya Savchenko. We also require setting free all illegally detained citizens of Ukraine that are political hostages and victims of the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

We are confident that all those involved in framing up the case against Nadiya Savchenko will be brought to justice. To this end, Ukraine will continue working with its international partners to bring into force the "Savchenko list".